GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5243
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Wi-Fi Hotspot
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the ASSOCHAM-Deloitte joint study wherein it has been claimed that the country needs over 80 lakh hotspots to reach the global level of Wi-Fi hotspot penetration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of operational hotspot in the country as against the requirement; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to install the required number of hotspots in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) As per ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India) − Deloitte joint study report, India needs over 80 lakh hotspots as against the availability of about 31,000 hotspots with a view to reach the global level of one Wi-Fi hotspot penetration for every 150 people.

Wi-Fi hotspots are proposed to be set up in all the Gram Panchayats (Approx. 2,50,000) in the country, leveraging the infrastructure of BharatNet for provision of services to citizens in rural areas, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

The following schemes have also been approved from USOF:

(i) Scheme for setting up of 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots at rural telephone exchanges of BSNL.
(ii) Wi-Fi Choupals proposed to be set up by Common Service Centre-Special Purpose Vehicle at 5,000 Gram Panchayats using BharatNet infrastructure.
(iii) Pilot Projects for Wi-Fi services.

In addition to the above, the Government has decided to provide Wi-Fi facility at 100 tourist places in the country.

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